

State Representative District #	Name	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Krista Griffith	
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1. **What motivates you to seek this position? And what makes you believe you are the “Best” candidate for this position?**

I worked for a small-town newspaper where I learned what it means to be accountable to the community. The power of our words can change lives; I saw this even more deeply as I studied law following my career in journalism. I put myself through law school at night and was ecstatic when I was hired as a Deputy Attorney General for the Delaware Department of Justice. It was there that I advocated and sought justice for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, and elder exploitation. I also served as chief executive officer for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Delaware, a nonprofit agency that provides coordinated, child-friendly support, medical evaluations, and forensic interviews for children who are victims or witnesses of abuse, neglect, or serious domestic violence.

My advocacy extended beyond the courtroom and print newspapers. My son, Nate, gave me a crash course in navigating our healthcare system. Diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a rare cancer, just after his first birthday, Nate faced continuous medical challenges. I met so many families in the hospital who faced serious stress and challenges to make ends meet and navigate complicated red tape. These experiences inspired me to fight for better funding, reduce red tape, and ensure better access to healthcare specialists. I will always advocate so our youngest learners have what they need to be successful and all children can thrive.

I was elected in 2018 to represent Delaware’s 12th Representative District, flipping a 50-year Republican-held seat from red to blue. As your state representative, I have delivered in Dover for the residents of the 12th District by taking on corporate giants in tech, standing up to insurance companies, and fighting Delmarva Power for lower utility bills. Now more than ever, we must come together to stand up to the many federal actions that impact our daily lives. I’ve pushed for the protection of Delaware students from ICE enforcement and passed the Freedom to Read Act to prevent ideologically banning books, and I will continue to fight bullies and all forms of overreach that infringes on our neighbors.

I also am proud to work with my constituents on local issues -- from street and drainage repair projects to standing up to developers who want to change the character of our communities and making sure our parks are preserved for the enjoyment of all.

2. If elected, what are your top three (3) legislative priorities that you look to address (either change, fix, or implement) for the coming year and the following year? For each of the priorities you identified, please explain

- **What outcome would you look to achieve?**
- **How do you think it is going to help and positively impact the residents in Brandywine Hundred?**
- **Identify the biggest hurdle you expect to face for each of the priorities and expand on how you plan to overcome it.**

My top priority is improving affordability from healthcare and childcare to utilities and groceries; it simply costs too much for families to thrive. I plan to continue to champion legislation to drive down healthcare costs and hold corporations accountable.

My next priority is to fight data centers from coming to Delaware and driving up our energy bills. I was proud to support several bills this year to require any data center coming to Delaware needs to bring their own renewable energy to the table, to require that data centers a higher rate for the energy they do use, and to ban data centers from getting any tax breaks.

Lastly, it is so critical to be responsive to local issues. From preserving Yorklyn to stopping major development on a residential corridor on Bancroft Parkway, I will continue to listen to my neighbors and stand with them to preserve our community.

When neighbors were frustrated that mowing in parks in Oak Lane Manor, Sharpley, Edenridge, Tavistock, and Woodbrook weren't happening, I stepped in to secure the funding to get it done. These everyday issues from potholes to community parks are so important to my work as your State Representative.

3. How do you intend to be transparent in your decision-making and keep residents informed before major votes?

I have an e-newsletter where I share important information on what is happening in Dover as well as what is happening in our community here in Brandywine. I encourage

neighbors to sign up to receive those messages as well as follow my social media pages where I provide lot of important news. I always look forward to attending community meetings and events where I can talk with neighbors about important issues and answer their questions. Additionally I put my phone number and direct email address on my website. Constituents can and often do reach out to me directly before a major vote and share their opinions. It is always fantastic to hear directly from my community and their feelings.

4. What is your position on “Sustainability” when addressing its three main pillars, and how will you address them legislatively? Please provide short-term and long-term initiatives for each of the pillars:

- **environmental** (conserving natural resources, fighting climate change, and reducing waste so ecosystems can recover)
- **economic** (supporting resilient, long-term financial growth and jobs without relying on destructive practices)
- **social** (ensuring fairness, equal opportunities, and healthy communities for everyone).

We need to be thoughtful about sustainability in environmental protection, economic growth, and social justice. These interests are not mutually exclusive but are the key components to meaningful legislating and planning. I was proud to support HB99 that set Delaware on an all of government approach to tackling climate change and setting us on a path towards zero net emissions by 2050. I was also proud to support legislation this year that made Delaware one of the strongest in protecting our communities from unchecked data center expansion, which have been shown to have negative impacts in other jurisdictions that have embraced them like Virginia and Ohio.

We need to be building local jobs that won't destroy our environment or ways of life. Jobs that built this community like DuPont, GM, and Astra Zeneca. And we need to make sure we have the right educational opportunities for our children so that they can succeed no matter what their background.

- 5. Will you ensure that there is legislation that requires comprehensive “Traffic studies” to be conducted by WILMAPCO & DELDOT to control and prevent the overuse/crowding of major secondary road traffic when residential and business developments are approved by New Castle County? Please elaborate.**

Traffic studies are critical to understanding the impact of development in our community. I have successfully requested traffic studies in RD 12 which have been very informative. I support ensuring these studies are done consistently and in a timely manner so they can be useful tools for decisions makers, planners, and neighbors.

- 6. “Affordable Housing” is one of the key needs in the Brandywine Hundred for newcomers, young families, and senior citizens who want to downsize, and/or cannot afford to buy or provide the needed upkeep of the currently available houses. This means affordable apartment buildings need to be developed, either through new construction or by converting old office buildings into apartments. This also requires public transportation with new routes and/or increasing the frequency of existing routes from apartment buildings to key locations. Given the current 2027 budget cuts to DelDOT, how do you plan to meet residents' needs when you start your new term in office?**

Housing development needs to be done with meaningful community engagement. We need to encourage affordable housing development while maintaining the character of neighborhoods and addressing traffic and infrastructure needs. The federal government has been cutting funding to the state housing authorities who lead support for affordable housing. I support a fully funded DelDOT and Delaware state house authority that are able to achieve their goals of sustainable development and increased affordable housing. I support Matt Meyer’s Executive order that helps cut unnecessary red tape and bring forward affordable housing projects, especially ones targeting under utilized infrastructure.

- 7. What legislation will you propose and champion to control the development of the data centers and their energy use without taxing and increasing the power costs of the residents?**

Data centers suck up a massive amount of energy that we simply don’t have. We cannot allow data centers to drive up residential utility costs. Our energy bills are already far too expensive. This year, I supported key legislation to protect Delawareans from data centers in a meaningful way. Now, data centers could only think of coming to Delaware if they are bringing their own power generation with them and if they pay a higher price to cover the

impact on our grid. I will continue to champion common sense laws that protect Brandywine from data centers.

- 8. Just recently, at the end of the 2026 Legislative Session, the state agreed to pitch in an additional \$110 million to help cover a \$189 million shortfall in the Edgemoor container terminal construction (ballooned from originally estimated \$415 million to \$669 million)**
- When the state's budget is already reduced, how will taxpayers be affected?**
 - Please explain what you will do to protect and maintain the existing services?**
 - How do you plan to communicate your legislative efforts transparently so that the services are not eliminated without taxpayers' knowledge and consent?**

I am proud to serve on the state's budget writing committee. We have passed balanced budgets that invests in critical services from schools, first responders, healthcare, and seniors. We did not increase taxes on Delaware families to do that.

Capital investment made in the port will not mean cuts to existing services. The port provides the state with a significant opportunity for good jobs and economic vitality. It needs to be done with meaningful community engagement and accountability so it delivers on the meaningful public investment. Our community voices matter -- issues such as truck traffic congestion should be worked out using information that come directly from those who live closest to the port.

- 9. DNREC listed Shellpot Creek as NOT SAFE for swimming or primary contact recreation. Shellpot Creek flows through a highly urbanized and suburban area in New Castle County (15-square-mile watershed). It is officially impaired by high levels of bacteria and nutrients from urban and storm-drain runoff, and by elevated concentrations of toxic PFAS "forever chemicals" in the watershed. However, DNREC still allows siphoning or the withdrawal of water from Shellpot. Controlling what is dumped into Shellpot Creek relies on both regulatory limits and community practices.**
- Could you please explain how you ensure that DNREC monitors the Shellpot Creek regularly and meets the requirements as identified in their regulations?**
 - How do you control and monitor what is being dumped into the Shellpot Creek?**
 - How often is Shellpot Creek monitored for safety?**

- **Will you commit to notifying all neighborhood communities under your jurisdiction about the DNREC findings, and to sharing the report DNREC generates, so children and pets are protected from health hazards?**
- **Will you put this information regularly in your newsletters to your constituents?**

Challenges with Shellpot Creek are top of my mind. I have advocated for short- and long-term improvements to protect our communities from this contaminated tributary. DelDOT (DNREC) has taken several steps to assist with short-term relief including a hydraulic (hydrolytic) study that can inform some steps we can take now. In addition, I am reconvening a group in October to bring together important stakeholders so we can work on long- term solutions that will likely require federal partnerships. I will definitely include updates on this in my newsletter.

10. Every year, many women experience serious health complications from pregnancy and childbirth in Delaware. Delaware ranks #1 in the nation for hospital maternity practices according to the Delaware Health Association; however, it struggles with maternal mental health and specific birth outcomes. The state has a preterm birth rate of 10.6% and is ranking 30th nationwide. It ranks 15th in maternal mortality and access.

- **What are you going to do to ensure that all mothers have access to the desired healthcare and healthcare providers, and provide them with services so they can get proper prenatal and baby care education, nutritional services, so every mother and child in Delaware is equipped to start a healthy life?**
- **Please explain the type of legislation you will introduce in 2027 and beyond.**

As a mom of two boys, I understand how important it is to ensure access to quality medical care for mom and baby. Strong prenatal care is critical to set up both mom and baby for the best outcomes. We need more providers. We need to listen to new moms and support their mental health with trauma-informed care and meaningful safety nets. I was proud to support family and medical leave in Delaware, which provides families with meaningful time off to recover from childbirth and care for baby. I'm proud to help lead efforts on recognizing the importance of maternal health awareness day -- sponsoring resolutions each year to educate the public and recognize the struggles pregnant women face. I'm also proud of the work the General Assembly has done over the past eight years

to pass legislation that targets systemic gaps in maternal care, expand postpartum coverage, and address social determinants of health for vulnerable and mothers from marginalized communities.

Our current healthcare system is complicated and difficult to navigate. I lived this reality caring for my son who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, a rare cancer, just after his first birthday. I will continue to champion legislation to cut the red tape, hold insurers accountable, improve access and coverage, and drive down cost of prescriptions to improve our healthcare system.

Thank you very much for completing the CCOBH 2026 Primary and General Election Survey.

If you would like to provide additional comments, please use the space below.